Library of Congress

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Vol. 52, No. 13 Published Biweekly June 28, 1993

The Charles Mingus Collection

Also: Congress Holds Hearing on LC Collections' Security

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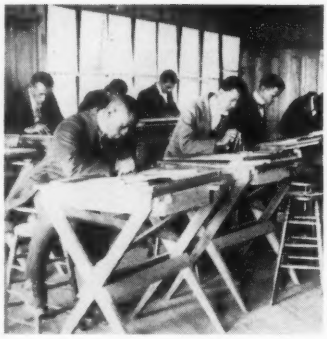
June 28, 1993

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress



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On the Cover: Jazz artist Charles Mingus playing his lion head bass. He is considered to be one of America's greatest composers among such innovators as Charles Ives, George Gershwin and Duke Ellington. *Photo by Sue Mingus*

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The *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* is issued biweekly except in August (no issues published) and in December (one issue published) by the Public Affairs Office of the Library of Congress and distributed free of charge to publicly supported libraries and research institutions, academic libraries, learned societies and allied organizations in the United States.

Comparable institutions and organizations in other countries may arrange to receive the *Bulletin* on an exchange basis by applying in writing to the Library's Exchange and Gift Division. All other correspondence should be addressed to the LC *Information Bulletin*, Public Affairs Office, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540-8610.

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JOHN J. KOZAR, Publisher

PRINTED ON 100% RECYCLED PARER
by the Library of Congress
Printing and Processing Section

House Approves FY '94 LC Budget:

Bill Calls for 1 Percent Cut in Net Appropriation

The House has approved a fiscal 1994 net appropriation of $306,943,000 for the Library and authority to use $24,233,000 in receipts for operation of the Library and the Congressional Research Service.

The legislative branch appropriations bill (H.R. 2348) passed by the House on June 10, reflects earlier recommendations of the House Committee on Appropriations. Should the bill be passed in its current form by the Senate and signed by the president, the Library would face a total reduction in purchasing power of some $15 million – or $16.8 million if locality pay for Washington, D.C., workers takes effect July 1, 1994. Under the House bill, the Library would:

☐ Take a 1 percent decrease ($3.2 million) from the fiscal 1993 net appropriation of $310,099,000, including a loss of 50 authorized positions.

☐ Absorb $4.8 million in price level changes for the purchase of goods and services such as travel, training and talking-book machines.

☐ Reduce salary funds by $6.8 million.

The Senate Appropriations Committee will draft its own version of the legislative branch appropriations bill, including the Library's fiscal 1994 budget, which will then go to the full Senate for a vote later this year. Differences between the House and Senate versions will be reconciled in a Senate-House conference committee. The bill that emerges from that conference will go back to each body for approval before going to the president for signature.

House reductions in the Library's budget from the 1993 level are consistent with those for the entire legislative branch. The House version of the legislative branch bill reflects President Clinton's Feb. 10 executive orders (12839 and 12837) to executive agencies to cut not less than 4 percent (100,000) of their civilian positions, measured on a full-time equivalent basis, over the next three years, and to reduce administrative expenses from the 1993 level by no less than 3 percent for fiscal 1994, 6 percent for fiscal 1995, 9 percent for fiscal 1996 and 14 percent for fiscal 1997.

In his report to the House, Rep. Vic Fazio (D-Calif.), chairman of the House Appropriations Legislative Branch Subcommittee, said H.R. 2348 as recommended by the committee would allow only 11 new positions for the entire legislative branch, abolish 250 authorized permanent positions, curtail funding for 2,312 authorized permanent positions and require legislative agencies to cut an additional 920 full-time equivalent positions from the fiscal year 1992 level.

The House bill could reduce the purchasing power of the Library by as much as $16.8 million and cut 4 percent of full-time positions by Sept. 30, 1995.

He projected that total outlays for the legislative branch, as reflected in H.R. 2348, would be 6.4 percent below current projections for fiscal 1993 operating levels.

"The Committee commends the more than 37,000 employees of the Legislative Branch for their diligence, hard work and dedication," Rep. Fazio said in the committee report. "The cuts herein are not aimed to penalize professional civil servants and other legislative employees, but only to indicate that this branch of government is a full participant in the effort to streamline the operations of government and to help solve our Nation's fiscal problems."

Impact on Library. "The House bill contains new administrative provisions that will have impact on the Library of Congress. We are studying those now to determine what the effect will be," said John D. Webster, the Library's financial services director.

Two provisions of the House bill would bring the legislative branch into line with the spending reductions and streamlining of operations ordered by President Clinton. Section 307 would provide for the 4 percent reduction in full-time equivalent positions by Sept. 30, 1995. "At least 10 percent of the positions eliminated shall be positions the pay for which is equal to or greater than the annual rate of basic pay payable for grade GS–14 of the General Schedule," according to the language of Section 307.

The effect of Section 307 on the Library would be a loss of more than 179 full-time equivalent positions, Mr. Webster said. Library officials are concerned, however, that staffing reductions required under Section 307 would not take into account downsizing already accomplished by the Library during fiscal 1992 in preparation for fiscal 1993.

(Cont. on p. 261)

Final Stanza:

Poet Laureate Gives Last Reading at LC

At a recent luncheon honoring the year-long tenure of Poet Laureate Mona Van Duyn, Librarian of Congress James H. Billington congratulated the 1991 Pulitzer prize-winning poet on her more recent accomplishments.

"She has brought wisdom and style to the role of Poet Laureate of the United States," he said. "During her special time at the Library, she has given us two new kinds of literary programs: readings for children, as exemplified with the recent evening with Lloyd Alexander, and dramatic readings, which included the very successful rendition of James Merrill's 'Voices from Sandover.'"

In response, Ms. Van Duyn read a poem from her recent book of poetry, *Firefall*, titled "Endings." She explained that the work came to her when she had "ambivalent attitudes about endings; that I couldn't bear to end a book I was engrossed in but needed to know the ending." The poem, in particular part 2 and dealing with programming one's VCR, was dedicated to Howard Nemerov, her good friend and recently deceased Poet Laureate.

The enthusiastic audience included her husband, Jarvis Thurston, *The Washington Post's* Sarah Booth Conroy and David Streitfeld, former Congressman James W. Symington, past Consultants in Poetry Anthony Hecht, Josephine Jacobsen and Reed Whittemore and fellow poets Linda Pasten and Henry Taylor. Representing the Madison Council were Ann Brownson, Joan Challinor, Mrs. Jefferson Patterson and Mitzi Perdue.

Following her reading, questions were allowed from guests, but the Laureate demurred with, "I have no answers left!" Mr. Symington then asked the Librarian, "What is to be done to maximize the appointment of the Laureate, and what can the Library do to help promulgate the virtues of poetry nationwide to reach the optimum audience?"

"The writers are out there, but [they are working for] PR firms, or even working for Hallmark—doing anything to give them time to write poetry. And poets today make their living doing readings."

—Mona Van Duyn

Dr. Billington replied that "the Library's first responsibility was to select outstanding Laureates," and that he "hoped to see improvement in attracting more attention to the post through increased use of media and more cross-country visits."

Luncheon guest and poet Grace Cavalieri remarked that "when Mona reads a poem, we always learn something new. When she read 'Endings' today, her pacing reminded us that the poem is a testament to self-worth and deserves all the time that it takes. The way she reads poetry says the poem is worthy of time. This is one of the most important lessons she leaves from her tenure."

The Poet Laureate had more to say later that spring evening when she delivered a lecture in the Library's Montpelier Room. The lecture, curiously titled "Help Urgently Wanted: 500 Honest, Talented Reviewers of Poetry Who Will Receive No Salary and Find No Place to Publish Their Reviews (A Lecture from Which the Audience May Learn More About the Current State of American Poetry than It Ever Wished to Know)," was hailed by a standing-room-only crowd.

Her audience sensed they were in for an earful. Their expectations were fulfilled. She related many of her own awkward experiences at the hands of those in control of mass publicity and communication, including television producers, book reviewers and poetry-magazine editors, authors and even fellow poets.

Said Ms. Van Duyn, "Something astonishing has happened in the last 20 years. We have become a nation of writers, not readers; there are 20 million poets out there. The problem does not seem to be with the number of people interested in poetry and literature, as one in every 12 or 13 people writes poetry, and at least 1,000 people are attending readings every night in your larger cities. They are now reading in coffee houses, civic centers, open mikes at bars, universities, and so on, and over the years, attendance is steadily increasing."

She continued with an assault on television and the movies, which she said offer no forums for people to hear and learn about poetry.

"The writers are out there," she said, "but [they are working for] PR firms, or even working for Hallmark—doing anything to give them time to write poetry. And poets today made their living doing readings;

very little comes in from book sales. Incomes are low and sales are down."

Ms. Van Duyn also told of her experiences in judging entries for various poetry contests and prizes, including the prestigious Bollingen Prize for Poetry. Because of so many candidates, judges are overwhelmed by the mountains of material. The quantity far outmatches the quality.

She then rebuked the critics for their lack of breadth, knowledge and vision in bringing their thoughts to the public.

She noted that newspapers never review poetry readings and that literary journals are sources for "the most blatant discrimination and attempts to discredit writers."

During the reception in her honor, Lou Mortimer, chief of the Library's Federal Research Division, commented on the Laureate's approach: "She is low-key, forthright and has a typically Midwest, heartfelt manner. The thoroughness of her presentation and her knowledge of the American culture succeeds within us, but she also maintains that certain gift of graciousness and levity."

During her time at the Library as Poet Laureate, a number of distinguished poets and authors read, including Donald Justice and Eavan Boland, Louise Glück and Mark Strand (co-winners of the 1992 Bobbitt Prize), novelist Edna Buchanan, Richard Bausch and William Maxwell, Jean McGarry, and during a colloquium on American poetry, panelists Joseph Brodsky, Denis Donoghue, Czeslaw Milosz, Anthony Hecht, Mark Strand, David Lehman and Rosanna Warren.

Ms. Van Duyn also wrote several poems about the new president and the change of administration. The first, which she read on the "Charlie Rose Show," is called, "For William Clinton, President-Elect," the second, which appeared excerpted in the Feb. 1 *New Yorker*, was "On Seeing a TV Shot of Mrs. Bush, Her Arm Around the Younger Woman's Waist, Leading Mrs. Clinton into the White House." —*John Sullivan*

LC Organization Offers Guide To Historically Black Colleges

From the *Historically Black Colleges and Universities* directory: A mechanical drawing class at North Carolina A&T (date unknown)

An employee organization at the Library of Congress recently collaborated with a local publisher to bring out an illustrated guide to the nation's historically black colleges and universities.

The Murray Resource Directory to the Nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities is a joint project of the Daniel A.P. Murray African American Culture Association, a nonprofit employee organization, and Logical Expression in Design, a Washington, D.C., design and production firm. The 322-page cloth bound edition is available for $67, postage paid, from Logical Expression in Design, Suite 407, 1730 M St., NW, Washington, DC 20036, (202) 429-6920.

The guide lists 104 such institutions state by state, from Alabama

Students stroll on the Tougaloo College campus (c.1960), which was founded in 1869 by the American Missionary Association.

A&M University to West Virginia State College. A short background statement on each college is provided, as well as information on its history and mission, a description of its curriculum, campus environment, financial aid and admission requirements. A special section lists scholarships and grants available for minority men and women.

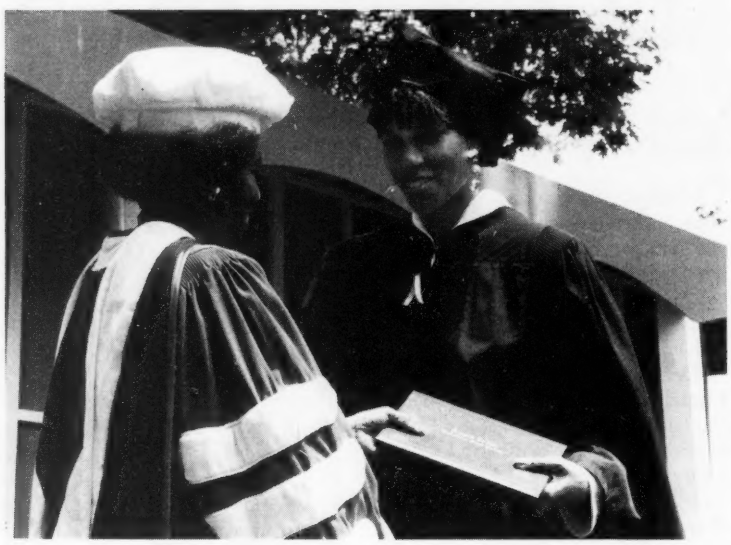
The publication is illustrated with many historical photographs of black college life from the collections of the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution, the Amistad Institute, the United Negro College Fund and elsewhere. A short essay covers the history of historically black colleges and universities, or HBCUs, as they are called.

The first was Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, established in the 1830s as a protest against the practice of limiting or prohibiting the education of blacks, most of whom were still slaves.

In his introduction to the volume, Rep. William J. Jefferson (D-La.) writes, "HBCUs really do believe that a 'mind is a terrible thing to waste,' and that we do not have a person or a mind that we can afford to waste. HBCUs create an environment in which students are supported in creative ways to develop academic skills sometimes lacking in their earlier preparation."

The *Murray Resource Directory* is an invaluable guide to institutions that offer this unique opportunity.

–Craig D'Ooge



Gloria Scott, president of Bennett College, awards graduation certificate (date unknown).

LC in the News

The May 23–25 *Washington Post* stories based on the papers of Thurgood Marshall, which have been available to researchers without restriction since Jan. 24, stirred a brief but vigorous controversy in Washington (see LC *Information Bulletin*, June 14).

Although the Library was acting on the express wishes of the late Supreme Court justice that his papers be opened to all researchers upon his death, the *Post* stories fueled a debate over whether the Library had acted responsibly in allowing access to the papers so soon after Marshall's death.

Critics ranged from Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist to columnist Carl Rowan. Those who applauded Dr. Billington's refusal to limit access to the papers ranged from *The New York Times* to *Library Journal*.

Justice Rehnquist, in a May 25 letter to Dr. Billington, chastised the Library for exercising "bad judgment." Justice Rehnquist said he was speaking for a "majority of the active justices."

The May 28 *New York Times* said, "The Supreme Court papers of the late Justice Thurgood Marshall have landed in the public domain, where they belong. . . . Dr. Billington clearly acted in the best interests of the public."

Carl Rowan, whose *Dream Makers, Dream Breakers: The World of Justice Thurgood Marshall* was written without benefit of access to the papers, accuses LC in his May 26 column of "betraying" Marshall's wishes.

But Juan Williams, who is writing a book about Justice Marshall, said in the May 30 *Washington Post* that "Marshall knew what he was doing when he gave the Library of Congress permission to open his papers after his death. Marshall was totally in charge of his wits."

Library Journal's John Berry said on June 15 that releasing the papers "was the right thing–the only thing–a librarian could do."

And *The Washington Post*, in its May 28 editorial, said Dr. Billington should not "have to explain why he didn't decide on his own to bury them in some basement for a decade. His job is to facilitate public access to information, not to block it."

–Guy Lamolinara

Filling in the Gaps:

Minority Projects Aim to Identify Needed Materials

Collections Policy Office volunteers look over some of the items they have identified for the Library's minority collections (from left): Vivian Bellinger-Biggers, Constance Carter, Gail Austin, Geraldine Ostrove and Bill Collins. *Photo by Jim Higgins*

In the fall of 1992, the Library of Congress's Collections Policy Office invited other divisions to propose projects aimed at enhancing the Library's holdings of material by and about minority groups.

Hartley Walsh, Collections Policy librarian, coordinated the division's projects and their recruitment of volunteers to identify the Library's current holdings, search for items missing from the shelves and identify additional books, serials and recordings needed for the Library's minority collections.

Vivian Bellinger-Biggers, a senior cataloger in the Literary Section of the Copyright Office, has been compiling a list of materials for young readers on African American scientists. "This bibliography will be distributed to librarians and teachers," Ms. Bellinger-Biggers explained. "We hope the material will provide young African Americans with role models and may encourage them to pursue science careers."

Since November 1992 Ms. Bellinger-Biggers has spent 12 hours per week searching the Library's stacks and data bases to identify current holdings, comparing them with those in local libraries. She ordered many special searches to find missing items and consulted publishers' catalogs and other sources such as Vivian Sammons's *Blacks in Science and Medicine,* for potential acquisitions.

"Fortunately, because of the past efforts of individuals in the Science and Technology Division, information on the subject of African American scientists is better represented in the Library's collections than we thought," Ms. Bellinger-Biggers said. "I've reordered missing materials and discovered new items, some of which I'll use in compiling a Library of Congress 'Science Tracer Bullet' [literature guides on specific topics published by LC's Science and Technology Division] on African American scientists for younger readers. We've targeted this guide especially for use in school systems and after-school programs.

"Working on this project has been a wonderful experience for me," she continued. "I've had a chance to access different data bases, meet and talk to knowledgeable individuals both in and outside the Library and review print sources and bibliographies that I didn't know about. I've also learned quite a bit about the Library's many catalogs and collections.

"I hope the information we're providing in our guide will bring our resources to more people's attention and that teachers and librarians will purchase some of the materials listed for their media centers and school libraries," she added.

Meanwhile, Gail Austin, a senior serials cataloger in the Serial Record Division, who is on detail to the Science and Technology Division, has nearly completed her "Science Tracer Bullet," called "African American Women in the Sciences and Related Disciplines." She too has conducted an extensive search for items buried in the Library's collections and elsewhere. To find these materials, she consulted indexes, journals, bibliographies and copyright records.

Ms. Austin sought advice and information from a variety of organizations and individuals, including the National Science Foundation

and the Association for Women in Science. She contacted Gloria Gaymon, author of *215 African American Women You Should Know About*, who provided her with a copy, and Janet Sims-Wood, of the Spingarn Center at Howard University, who provided Ms. Austin with several of her bibliographies, which proved extremely useful. Ms. Austin also contacted Audrey Daniel, national coordinator of Minority Women in Science (MWIS) at the American Association for the Advancement of Science, who, after hearing about her project, invited her to speak to the MWIS meeting in Boston on Feb. 14.

Added Ms. Austin: "The listing includes books and articles on several professional groups, including minority nurses, mathematicians, even black female dentists. Libraries, teachers and many nonprofit organizations are anxious to receive such bibliographies. We'll distribute our lists through the depository library system and distribute copies for use at schools' 'career days' and provide pamphlets in the Library's Science and Technology Reading Room."

Geraldine Ostrove, a senior policy specialist in the Cataloging Policy and Support Office, is also focusing on women's contributions in her assessment of the Library's current and potential holdings in women's music. The category covers a broad range of music types, such as "feminist," "lesbian" or "ritual" music, in addition to more common stylistic categories of jazz, vocal, instrumental, gospel, etc.

"The Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division believes there are hundreds of sound recording publishers—especially the smaller ones—who have failed to comply with copyright law, which requires that two copies of each recording be deposited with the Library," Ms. Ostrove explained. "For example, I've searched on the [Copyright Office History of Monographs file], and MUMS [the Library of Congress's cataloging data base] for every item in the 'Ladyslipper' mail order catalog, which specializes in many types of music by and about women. We have less than 25 percent of their recordings.

"But just trying to identify manufacturers of individual recordings can be tricky," she continued. I've had to cast a wide net to find them."

Since last October, Ms. Ostrove has spent many hours searching data bases, poring over catalogs, tracking down manufacturers, checking the Library's holdings and recommending items to be ordered.

"The listing includes books and articles on several professional groups, including minority nurses, mathematicians, even black female dentists. Libraries, teachers and many nonprofit organizations are anxious to receive such bibliographies."

—Gail Austin

As part of this project, she intends to make on-line records to enter in the MUMS data base for sound recordings that are on order.

"If patrons can gain information on recordings before they're received or cataloged, they'll know what's coming in or might be available elsewhere," Ms. Ostrove said. Catherine Garland, head of the Processing Section in the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, "came up with the idea and is helping to shepherd it through. I think it will go a long way toward informing both patrons and library personnel of what's available."

Since January, William Collins, chief of Copyright Cataloging, has been examining the Library's holdings on Baha'i faith. Baha'i is a worldwide religion that emerged from Islam in mid-19th century Iran. Mr. Collins, the author of the extensive *Bibliography of English-Language Works on the Babi and Baha'i Faiths*, relies heavily on the experience and contacts he acquired as the director for 13 years at the International Baha'i Library in Israel.

"On the whole, the Library of Congress has reasonably good holdings on the Baha'i faith in English, both original works and in translation, but we have relatively few of the many original works written in Persian or Arabic, especially of Baha'i scriptures. I plan on researching those next," he said. (The Library generally limits its acquisitions to primary or scholarly works in their original language or English translations or both.)

"Many Baha'i publications are difficult to find because publications are not always listed under 'Baha'i' in bibliographies, so it takes a lot of digging to find titles," Mr. Collins added. "I've requested 40 recent titles from publishers' catalogs, but that's just the tip of the iceberg."

Although a few catalogs and indexes are published by Baha'i publishing trusts in such countries as India, Germany, the United Kingdom and Australia, many works on and by members of this faith are not widely publicized. In some areas of the world, and in Iran, where the faith is repressed, works either cannot be published or book stocks have been confiscated.

"I learn a lot about what's out there by talking to my contacts back at the center, miscellaneous pamphlets we receive here from bibliographies in published works and from friends who hear about new titles coming out," Mr. Collins said. "Some original works by Russian authors are starting to come out now; it's a challenge trying to keep up with it all."

The Baha'i faith claims about 6 million members in 205 countries and territories throughout the world. There are about 120,000 members in the United States. "The Library has

not collected all translations of the Baha'i sacred texts as it has for other major religions," Mr. Collins said. "I hope that . . . we will be able to acquire more of this material."

Finally, Eniko Molnar Basa, a cataloger in Serial Record, and Ken Nyirady, a senior reference librarian in the European Division, will begin in August to survey Hungarian American newspaper holdings at LC and other libraries. Ultimately, they hope to list more than 300 titles (not all of which will be available at the Library) on a data base in the European Reading Room and in hard copy for patrons' use.

"I believe that most of the Library's holdings represent the period before World War II, when immigration to this country was at its height," Ms. Basa said. "Later, the Hungarian communities became assimilated and eventually dispersed, and many of the Hungarian American community newspapers went out of business. The Library's periodical collection in this area is more extensive."

"I believe that, as a rule, the Library does not include ethnic American newspapers in its collections," Mr. Nyirady added. "We hope to acquire some of them retrospectively, on microfilm, in the future."

These pilot projects could lead to other efforts to assess and enhance holdings throughout the Library's collections. "We're the link between the collections and the people with their individual research needs," explained Constance Carter, head of the Science and Technology Division's Science and Reference Section. "So much valuable information is buried here, hidden under broad classifications in indexes or misplaced on the shelves. And of course, there are many titles that we don't have but should. That's why these guides are so important."

—Barbara Bryant

LC Budget *(Cont. from p. 255)*

Section 308 provides for the 14 percent cut in administrative expenses over the next four years, adjusting for inflation, and requires each entity of the legislative branch to "set forth a separate category for administrative expenses."

Another provision of the bill, Section 306, would authorize the Library, General Accounting Office and Government Printing Office to offer incentive separation payments to eligible employees who retire or voluntarily leave federal service before Jan. 1, 1994.

Subsection (b) of Section 306 originally provided for the elimination of one position and funding for each person taking advantage of the incentive payments, which virtually would have eliminated the Library's use of this new authority. However, Rep. John Conyers Jr. (D-Mich.) raised a point of order regarding subsection (b), and it was eliminated from the final House version of the bill.

The Library cannot offer separation incentives until the Senate and president approve a final legislative branch appropriations bill containing a provision to provide for them. Mr. Webster said incentives would be up to $25,000 for each eligible employee. The Library would determine who is eligible for separation payments and develop policies and procedures for implementation.

The Library is evaluating the effect on the Library of another section, 206, which would limit reimbursable activities of the Library as well as the disbursement of gift and trust funds.

House Orders Specific Cuts. Following committee recommendations, the House bill would:

☐ Retain a level budget of $43,144,000 for the Books for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Program.

☐ Cut the Congressional Research Service budget by 1 percent, or $573,000.

☐ Cut the Copyright Office's basic budget by 1 percent but allow for an overall increase of $16,000 as a result of additional authority to use receipts of $116,000.

☐ Eliminate an additional $55,000 in pay as well as the position for an administrative coordinator for the Librarian Emeritus.

☐ Cut the Library's basic appropriation by 1 percent.

More specifically, the bill would:

☐ Eliminate the American Memory Program (16 positions). "American Memory has been successfully demonstrated at 44 test sites. The technology works and is in place. Now is the time to prepare the final report which will allow the private sector and educational establishment to utilize the benefits of the Library's research and development," the House Committee on Appropriations said in its report to the full House.

☐ Eliminate Special Projects (25 positions) and science and technology initiatives, including the associate librarian for science and technology information (three positions) and the National Translations Center (five positions).

☐ Redirect funding from bonuses for senior level employees ($80,000 annual salary and above) to "higher priority" activities. "Next year, the Committee will again review this expenditure, which is presumably justified as being comparable to a similar program available in the Senior Executive Service," the Appropriations Committee said.

With respect to special projects, this activity is being significantly reduced under the Library's own volition," the committee said. "The remainder of those personnel resources, which comprise an extremely talented staff pool, can be most effectively utilized in human resources, automation or in the arrearage project."

—Gail Fineberg

Senate Hears the Librarian on Marshall Papers

The Library had "no choice" but to honor the late Justice Thurgood Marshall's express wishes and open his papers last January after his death.

So said Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman (D-Conn.), chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Regulation and Government Information on June 11 as he heard testimony from Dr. Billington and others on possible "ground rules" to govern future access to Supreme Court justices' papers.

The hearing came almost two weeks after *Washington Post* articles based on the Marshall papers sparked a brief but much-publicized furor, stirred by strong criticism of LC's action by Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, several former Marshall law clerks and lawyers linked to the Marshall family.

During the furor, Dr. Billington met with all aggrieved parties and issued a detailed public statement to explain LC's stance (see LC *Information Bulletin,* June 14).

The Manuscript Division's assistant chief, David Wigdor, and specialist in Afro-American culture, Debra Newman Ham, have described their Oct. 7, 1991, meeting with Marshall to journalists and have written corrective letters to erring news magazines. They have also written rebuttals to an op-ed piece and letters in *The New York Times.* In editorials, *The Times, Post* and several other newspapers backed the Library (see "LC in the News" on page 258), as did historian David Garrow.

Sen. Lieberman heard witnesses disagree on how long justices' papers should be withheld and how legislation or court guidelines could or should shape the disposition of justices' papers. Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) deplored access by journalists to the Marshall papers. Worried about too early disclosure of court proceedings were E. Barrett Prettyman Jr., vice president of the Supreme Court, and *Supreme Court Review* Editor Dennis Hutchison. Neither, however, castigated the Library.

Dr. Billington: "We have taken pride in our role as a neutral, scholarly institution, devoted to the effective preservation of judicial papers. . . . Until recently, no controversy has arisen over our management of these materials."

Backing LC in the Marshall affair were Ann Kenney, head of the Society of Archivists, and Jane E. Kirtley, executive director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. The proceedings were shown on C-SPAN.

Dr. Billington noted that LC held the papers of 37 justices, that the restrictions imposed by each justice on his papers varied and that the Library mission was to preserve this evidence of the nation's "judicial past" with as few restrictions as possible. He said LC would join in any "reexamination" by others of current practices, while remaining "studiously neutral." He hoped any "changed policy" would continue to allow justices to choose where to leave their papers, since LC was the nation's prime center for Supreme Court studies.

Following is the statement of James H. Billington made before the Subcommittee on Regulation and Government Information, Committee on Governmental Affairs, on June 11:

Chairman Lieberman and members of the Subcommittee, it is my pleasure to be here today for this hearing concerning the preservation of and access to the public papers of Supreme Court Justices.

Since the early years of this century, the Library of Congress has been a repository for the papers of both sitting and former members of the Supreme Court. Our Manuscript Division presently counts such collections for 37 former high court Justices, which were mostly donated by the Justices or their heirs. Chief Justice Earl Warren and nine of the Justices who served with him have placed their papers here, which has reinforced the Library's role as the principal research center for the study of the Court.

Our collections of judicial papers, supplemented by other related manuscript collections as well as the world's largest law library, permit students of American legal history to explore research problems within the broadest possible context. We have taken pride in our role as a neutral, scholarly institution, devoted to the effective preservation of judicial papers and providing sophisticated reference assistance to a broad range of scholars and researchers with widely differing viewpoints who use the collections.

(Cont. on p. 268)

Charles Mingus (left) and drummer Danny Richmond at Mingus's last recording session for Atlantic Records in January 1978. *Photo from the Charles Mingus Collection*

A Historic Acquisition:

Library Acquires Collection of Jazz Great Charles Mingus

by Helen Dalrymple

The Library celebrated its most important acquisition of a manuscript collection relating to jazz in its history with a press conference and a concert during the first week of June.

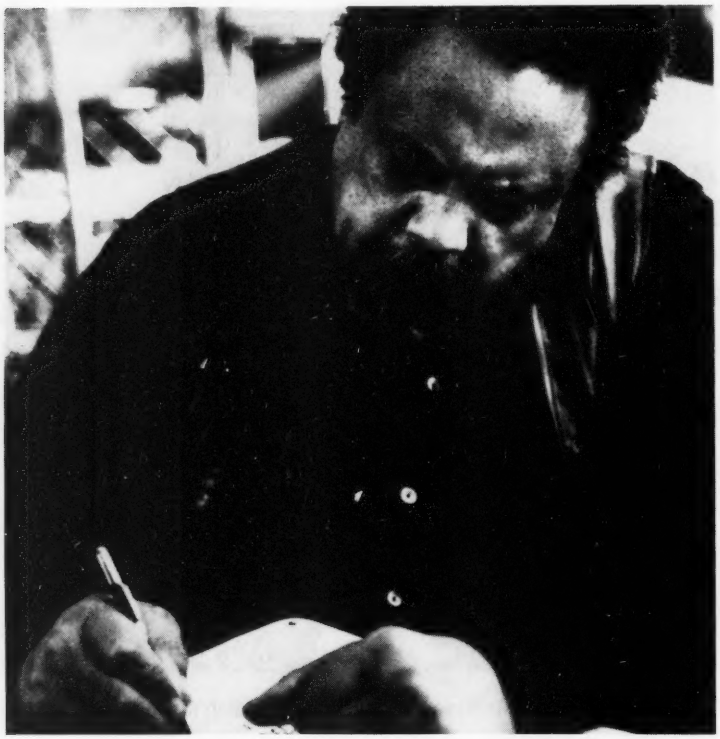
Sue Graham Mingus, who sold the collection to the Library and who has taken an active role in perpetuating performance of—and interest in—her late husband's music, chose the Library of Congress as the repository of the Mingus Collection.

At the June 1 press conference she thanked the Library of Congress, specifically James Pruett and Jon Newsom, chief and assistant chief of the Music Division, "for making this acquisition possible and for assuring that Mingus's works will be accessible to musicians and scholars and to the public at large for many years to come."

Winston Tabb, associate librarian for Collections Services, made clear that the Library intends to make active use of the extraordinary Mingus Collection.

"It is the Library's intention," said Mr. Tabb, "to promote the music of Mingus not simply by acting as the conservators of the paper, tapes, photographs and other wonderful materials which make up the collection and of which we have examples here; rather, we intend to promote the Mingus creative legacy by performances, recordings, lectures and publications so that his art can be better, and more fully, and even more appropriately, appreciated by the public we serve."

The collection consists of original music manuscripts, arrangers' scores, instrumental parts, tape recordings, photographs, literary manuscripts and other memorabilia documenting the career of bassist Charles Mingus as performer, composer and writer. The scores and parts, as well as many of the recordings, represent both a working library of performing materials



Charles Mingus composing at his 10th Street Manhattan home, 1978.
Photo from the Charles Mingus Collection

and a unique collection documenting Mingus's working methods.

Charles Mingus is considered one of America's greatest composers among such innovators as Charles Ives, George Gershwin and Duke Ellington. Born in Nogales, Ariz., on April 22, 1922, Mingus was the child of a family that included African American, English, Chinese, Swedish and possibly Scottish parentage. From his first known compositions (ca. 1939) to his last, Mingus drew on his own rich heritage and created a body of work that contributes to the definition of American music.

Like Ives, Gershwin and Ellington, Mingus developed an immediately recognizable style by demanding a performance practice specific to his music. As a composer, Mingus recognized all styles of music as a resource and integrated improvising soloists into the fabric of his compositions.

Jazz scholar Andrew Homzy, who has been working with the Mingus Collection since 1984, discussed the innovative and creative influences of Charles Mingus on jazz and on American music in general at the press conference.

"Mingus had a tremendous sense of self as a composer. Even though he went through a certain period . . . where he would teach his musicians his piece by ear, that was [only] one aspect of his compositional style. He really was concerned with writing his music, orchestrating it, having it set down, as any composer would, for posterity."

"I was aware of the scope of Mingus's music," continued Mr. Homzy, "but actually by going through the scores, I understood that it was even wider than I had originally suspected. And even some pieces which were thought to have been worked out in the recording studio, where Mingus taught the musicians part by part, some of these do exist in Mingus's hand. In other words, it was very important for him to save these things."

Mr. Homzy gave a brief lecture on the music of Mingus, playing a number of different taped excerpts to illustrate various points. He showed how Mingus was influenced by all kinds of music, from the music of the Holiness Church of his childhood, to other jazz musicians such as Duke Ellington and alto saxophone player Charlie Parker.

"Mingus was not a separatist; he did not put music into different categories. . . . He brought it all together, and all this shows in some way or another in almost every piece he wrote," said Mr. Homzy.

Andrew Homzy discusses Charles Mingus at June 1 press conference.
Photo by Yusef El-Amin

He then discussed the accomplishments of Charles Mingus as an innovator in the jazz idiom and how he improvised (what Homzy called "plastic, elastic form") within the

structure of a piece as well as with changes in meter and tempo ("metric modulation").

"This idea of metric modulation," noted Mr. Homzy, "Mingus developed to a very sophisticated degree, working particularly with his drummer, Danny Richmond, who was very important in this rhythmic concept."

The Mingus Big Band, featuring a 14-member jazz repertory orchestra, performed a program of Mingus classics for an overflow crowd at the Library's concert held at the auditorium of the National Academy of Sciences on Friday evening, June 4. The concert was introduced by Sue Mingus, the creator of Mingus Big Band, who again expressed her pleasure that the Mingus Collection had found a home at the Library of Congress.

A one-hour radio program based on the Friday night concert, "Mingus Big Band: Live at the Library of Congress," has been produced as part of the continuing "Concerts from the Library of Congress" series, and it will be heard nationwide in the near future over radio stations in the American Public Radio Network.

James Pruett (left) and Jon Newsom talk with Sue Graham Mingus, widow of Charles Mingus, about her husband's collection before the press conference in the Mary Pickford Theater; Sue Mingus expresses her gratitude to the Library of Congress for making the acquisition possible; Jon Newsom discusses some of the items included in the Charles Mingus Collection and notes that researchers and scholars will be able to use the collection, once it is fully processed. *Photos by Yusef El-Amin*

Asian Division Chief, Assistant Chief Retire

Warren Tsuneishi retired Feb. 3, after 30 years of service in the Library of Congress as chief of the Orientalia (later Asian) Division and as director of area studies in the former Research Services Department.

A native of California, Dr. Tsuneishi began his college education at UCLA and two years later transferred to the University of California at Berkeley. With the outbreak of World War II in the Pacific, he was evacuated to a relocation center in Wyoming, but by January 1943 was able to enroll at Syracuse University, where he completed his undergraduate education in August of that year. He then volunteered for military service.

In 1946 he enrolled at Columbia University, where he received a master's degree from the Department of Chinese and Japanese (1948) and a master's from Columbia Library School. In 1960 he received his doctorate from Yale University.

Dr. Tsuneishi began his library career in 1950 at Yale University Library. In 1957 he came to the Library of Congress to head the Cataloging Department's newly created Far Eastern Languages Section, but in 1960 returned to Yale to resume his position as Curator of the Far Eastern Collection. Returning to the Library of Congress in 1966, he became the chief of the Orientalia Division, a position he held until the Library's reorganization of 1978, at which time he was promoted to director of area studies in the Library's Research Services Department.

With the Library reorganization of 1989 he was appointed chief of the Asian Division (until 1978 the Orientalia Division), a position he retained until the time of his retirement.

During his 30 years at the Library of Congress, Dr. Tsuneishi participated in several important developments in East Asian librarianship. In the late 1950s, as head of the Far Eastern Languages Section, he was the first to supervise the Library's cataloging of Chinese-, Japanese- and Korean-language materials in accordance with newly established cataloging rules that standardized the use of both romanized and vernacular data on newly formatted LC printed cards.

Warren Tsuneishi

In the 1960s, in the heyday of the National Program for Acquisitions and Cataloging (NPAC), Dr. Tsuneishi helped plan the Library's only NPAC center in East Asia, established in Tokyo in 1968.

In the 1970s, he assisted in plans coordinated by the Library of Congress to send the first American delegation of librarians (represented by LC, the American Library Association, the Association of Research Libraries and Association for Asian Studies) to the People's Republic of China, for which he received the Library's Superior Service Award.

In the 1980s, he served as the Library's representative to the Research Libraries Group (RLG) East Asia Program Committee during the period when RLG, with the cooperation of the Library, was developing on-line network cataloging of East Asian-language materials. And in the early 1990s, he played a leading role in the planning and negotiations with the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership that resulted in the establishment within the Asian Division of the Japan Documentation Center.

Dr. Tsuneishi was active in several library and academic organizations. As a member of the Association for Asian Studies, he served on the Executive Group of the Committee on East Asian Libraries and on the advisory committee of the association's *Bibliography of Asian Studies*. He was a member, and in 1967 chairman, of the Special Subcommittee on Romanization of Japanese of the Z-39 Subcommittee of the American Standards Institute, and also served as chairman (1966-68) of the East Asian Acquisitions Committee of the Association of Research Libraries. He was also a member of the American Council of Education's International Education Project Task Force on Library and Information Resources, and from 1975-78 served on the East Asian Libraries Steering Committee of the American Council of Learned Societies.

Of special interest to Dr. Tsuneishi was the field of international library relations, an area in which he served with distinction in several organizations. From 1975 to 1980 he was chairman of the American Panel of the Subcommittee on Libraries of the U.S.-Japan Conference on Education and Cultural Interchange (CULCON), and in 1983 he was elected president of the International Association of Orientalist Librarians, a position he held until 1991. He was a member of the American Advisory Committee of the Japan Founda-

tion (1982–84) and of the U.S.-U.S.S.R. Commission on Library Cooperation (1987–91).

Perhaps his most substantial contributions in this area were his activities on various committees of the American Library Association, where he was a member of the International Relations Committee (1987–89), the Armenian Earthquake Relief Committee (1989–91) and chair of the International Relations Round Table (1983–84). Of particular note was his work over a period of 25 years as a member of the ALA International Relations Advisory Committee for Liaison with Japanese Libraries, where he played a major role in organizing five U.S.-Japan Conferences on Library and Information Science and in editing and preparing for publication the proceedings of these conferences; the most recent is scheduled for publication in Tokyo in 1993.

Richard C. Howard retired Dec. 31, 1992, after more than three decades of service to the Asian studies community of librarians and scholars, initially in the East Asian Library of Columbia University, then as the curator-librarian of the Wasson Collection at Cornell University and finally as the assistant chief of the Asian Division (and its predecessor the Orientalia Division) of the Library of Congress.

Born in Kitchner, Ontario, Canada, Dr. Howard received his early education in Ontario. He first matriculated at the University of Western Ontario, and then following two years of service in the U.S. military, transferred to Columbia College, where he received his A.B. cum laude with "special distinction in Chinese." Continuing his graduate studies in the Department of Chinese and Japanese at Columbia, he specialized in Chinese intellectual history.

From 1951 to 1956, Dr. Howard served as China specialist in the East Asian Library at Columbia responsible for the acquisition and descriptive cataloging of Chinese works, as well as bibliographical and reference work. He then spent two years in Taiwan and Hong Kong on field training and research fellowships, returning to Columbia in 1959 as a lecturer in Chinese and assuming the position of research associate and deputy director of the Columbia University Research Project on Men and Politics in Modern China, a position he retained until 1963. The product of the project was the still standard four-volume *Biographical Dictionary of Republican China* (Columbia University Press, 1967–71), of which he was the associate editor. This dictionary continued the pioneering biographical directory *Eminent Chinese of the Ch'ing Period (1644–1912)*, in two volumes, edited by Arthur W. Hummel, the first chief of the Orientalia Division (Government Printing Office, 1944).

Richard Howard

Dr. Howard served as curator-librarian of the Wasson Collection on China at Cornell University in 1963–76, and from that position came to the Library of Congress as assistant chief of the Orientalia (now Asian) Division. From 1979 to 1983, and from 1986 to 1988, he also served as acting chief of the division. He was responsible for implementing the use of automated catalogs in the division, and in the 1980s, when the Library began with the Research Libraries Group to develop vernacular cataloging records in Chinese, Japanese and Korean (CJK), he served on the Processing Services CJK Management Committee.

He also served on a number of other Library or service unit committees covering areas such as acquisitions, collections security, collection priorities and levels of cataloging, the future of the LC card catalogs, serials management, future space needs and preservation microfilming. In 1983 he received a Superior Service Award, and in 1984 and in 1988, he received Meritorious Service Awards.

A major contributor to the work of the Association for Asian Studies, he was elected by his colleagues to membership in the AAS China and Inner Asia Council for the term 1977–80 and served as coordinator for the council's "State-of-the-Field" program. Previously, he had edited the annual volumes of the *Bibliography of Asian Studies* from 1963 to 1970; and served on the BAS Advisory Committee in 1971–84.

Dr. Howard was also a leader in the AAS Committee on East Asian Libraries (CEAL). He served two terms as a member the CEAL Executive Group from 1969–71 and 1974–77 and as chair of its Subcommittee on Publications, 1976–80, and concurrently as editor of the *CEAL Bulletin*. He was elected chair of CEAL for 1982–85.

Dr. Howard appeared on numerous panels organized by the Association for Asian Studies and other scholarly bodies, either presenting papers on Chinese history and on library-related issues or serving as chair, discussant or rapporteur.

Court Papers *(Cont. from p. 262)*
Until recently, no controversy has arisen over our management of these materials.

A few weeks ago, however, we were surprised and distressed by the number of concerns expressed about our administration of judicial papers following the publication of several newspaper articles on the Court, some months after the opening of Justice Thurgood Marshall's papers. Let me take this opportunity to put our action in the case of the Marshall collection in the larger context of the Library's policies governing the accession and management of such papers.

Traditionally, the papers produced by and on behalf of members of the Supreme Court have been regarded as their personal property, to be taken away by them upon their resignation or retirement from the bench and disposed of as they or their heirs may decide. In fulfilling our mission to preserve such historically valuable material and provide a facility in which it is publicly accessible, the Library and the donor enter into a contract or an instrument of gift detailing the terms of access and other administrative arrangements. It is the donor who decides when the collection is to be made accessible and on what conditions. The Library abides faithfully by that determination, insisting only upon the discretion to determine when the papers are properly cataloged and physically ready for use.

Supreme Court Justices have chosen a variety of procedures to govern access to their personal papers. Justices Harold Burton and Thurgood Marshall controlled access to their papers during their lifetimes but made the collections available without restrictions after their deaths. Others have set limited, special conditions upon access to their collections at the Library. Justice Felix Frankfurter, for example, closed access for 16 years from the date of each paper's original creation. Chief Justice Earl Warren personally controlled access during his lifetime but indicated in his will that, after 10 years had elapsed from the time of his death, access was to be unrestricted.

Two sitting members of the Court have donated their papers to the Library. Justice Byron R. White has indicated that access to his material shall be granted only with his permission during his lifetime. The collection will be open "to the public" 10 years after his death. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor has allowed access to her papers at the Library with her permission during her lifetime. Thereafter, access is to be unrestricted, except for case files, which are closed as long as any participating Justice continues to serve on the Court.

As I said earlier, it is for the donor to decide when the collection is to be made available, and for us to carry out that determination. For us, each donation is a distinct, self-contained transaction. We work on a case-by-case basis. The Library of Congress does not set broad policy or general standards concerning the accessibility of the papers of former Supreme Court Justices as a group.

Like Supreme Court Justices, federal judges of the lower courts have also made varying assessments of what constitutes appropriate access to their papers. Judge Abner Mikva and the late Judge J. Skelly Wright, who have both served as Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, have expressed dramatically different points of view about this matter. Judge Wright made his papers available without restriction upon his retirement in 1987, whereas Judge Mikva has argued recently that judicial deliberations cannot be protected unless a judge's personal papers are closed for a significant period of time. This debate illustrates the range of opinions that exists on this issue. We do not and cannot make independent assessments of how access to the papers of individual Supreme Court Justices affects the entire judicial process. We rely upon the judgment of each donor as to the most appropriate restrictions on access to his or her papers in light of the possible impact of such access on the work of colleagues and the Court.

My own view as a historian is that judicial papers should be preserved in as complete a fashion as possible. These collections help us understand the critical role the Court has played in our national life, but they also underscore the characteristically American openness that members of the Court have permitted in the examination of the judicial process. The use of judicial papers by researchers and scholars at the Library generally produces a patient, gradual, historical reconstruction and continuing reexamination of our judicial past. This past must be explored with as few restrictions as possible to enhance public understanding of the judicial process.

The experience of the Public Documents Commission, which concluded its deliberations in 1977, may also be useful to this Subcommittee in its deliberations over improving arrangements for the preservation and accessibility of the papers of the Justices. For example, it might be worthwhile to consider some categorical distinctions suggested by the Public Documents Commission to describe the documentary materials accumulated in the administrative offices of the Court and the chambers of the individual Justices. The Commission identified as "federal records" those materials that are forwarded by the Court's administrative offices to the National Archives; "public papers" and "personal papers" were terms used by the Commission to describe materials in the individual chambers of the Justices:

(1) Federal records (materials filed by the parties, dockets, transcripts, administrative and similar docu-

ments which are official government records to be retired to the National Archives);

(2) Public papers (documentary materials, exclusive of court records, generated or received by federal judges in connection with their official duties and retained in their files after final judgment has been entered in a case); and

(3) Personal papers (materials of a purely private or nonofficial character that pertain to a judge's personal affairs).

Disposition standards for "public papers" might most appropriately be developed by the Supreme Court itself or by the Judicial Conference of the United States. The Archivist of the United States and other appropriate parties, particularly from the scholarly and archival communities, could also offer useful suggestions in framing access standards for particular types of sensitive "public papers." I stand ready to participate in such a reexamination of current practices and have already written current Justices of the Court to offer any help they might wish from us in such a process.

Let me conclude by drawing your attention to a rather recent development that, in the context of this hearing, certainly merits discussion. In its deliberations on improving arrangements for the preservation and accessibility of the papers of Supreme Court Justices, I urge the Subcommittee to consider information in electronic forms and formats. Court opinions are now being electronically disseminated across the nation. The hard memory disks in the personal computers of Supreme Court Justices and their staffs contain information of historical value equal to that of the much-publicized electronic documentation being created by White House staff.

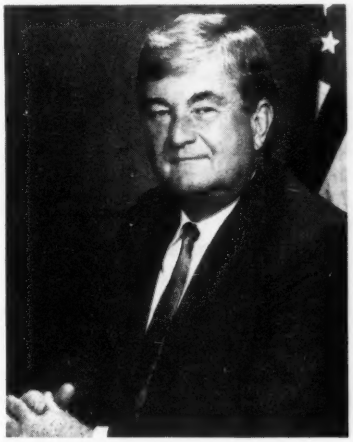
We believe our posture in all such deliberations should be studiously neutral, since we are the principal (and, we believe, efficient and faith-

(Cont. on p. 275)

Rep. Rose Holds Hearing On Security, Access to Stacks

Rep. Charlie Rose (D-N.C.), chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, this week gave LC managers, their supporters and their critics a chance to discuss the Library's year-old closing of the stacks and other measures taken to secure the collections against theft and vandalism.

During his June 15 hearing, Rep. Rose noted that Dr. Billington had closed general collections stacks to the public March 30, 1992, and to LC staff (aside from designated personnel) on May 4, 1992.



Rep. Charlie Rose gave LC managers a chance to explain the need for the Library's new security measures; those in opposition also testified.

Thereafter, Rep. Rose said, "the joint committee began receiving numerous calls, letters and petitions from researchers and staff who are unhappy with these new security measures."

Explaining the measures, Dr. Billington said that 70 to 80 percent of the 100 million items in LC's collections—maps, manuscripts, motion pictures, etc., had long been off limits to the public and most staff. But, in contrast to other national libraries, LC had allowed both researchers (some 5,000 stack passes a year) and staff unlimited access to the general book collections. An inventory begun in 1978 revealed by the late 1980s that some 300,000 books were unaccounted for.

"Permitting direct access had inflicted a terrible hidden cost," he said.

Six years ago, he noted, planning began on electronic controls on more than 110 doors—the work was linked to the Jefferson Building renovation and is almost complete. In 1988 a Library committee proposed a book detection system that LC began using in 1991. In June 1991 LC began a Library-wide reader registration program. Meanwhile, in 1991–1992, four men were caught and arrested for stealing LC materials—all respectable-seeming folk.

Then LC staffers began inspecting illustrated books; more than 500 had been mutilated by slash-and-sell thieves for a lucrative market, probably after 1985, as Diane Kresh, LC preservation resources officer, pointed out in separate, more detailed testimony (excerpted below).

Finally, in March 1992, Dr. Billington said, staff reported that illustrated books were being found with paper clips attached to key illustrations—paper clips that had not been there a week earlier. Hearing rumors that LC was about to close off stack access, thieves were apparently targeting illustrations for rapid extraction.

"I decided to close off the stacks," he said.

Dr. Billington said that the current security plan (which involves a $1.4 million budget request for fiscal 1994) includes cages for valuable materials, reconfiguring of reading

rooms, intensified inspection at LC exits, lockers for personal belongings and more security cameras (which have ended loss of current periodicals in one reading room).

Perhaps three years from now, he said, once the security system is completed and duly certified as effective, LC can begin to think about "special access and similar matters." In the meantime, he asked for "a little patience" and some sense of "their longterm interests" from both researchers and staff.

After hearing Dr. Billington and coordinator Mike Shelley, Rep. Rose suggested that perhaps thefts from LC should be penalized more harshly than theft of ordinary federal property, possibly under a new statute.

Endorsing LC's policy as "unpopular" but "long overdue," Syracuse University Librarian David H. Stam, himself a historian, said closed stacks are not only safer but more efficient, with greater on-shelf availability of materials. He was echoed by Paul Fasana of New York Public Library, whose stacks are closed.

Dr. Stam said the "threat of insider pilferage and neglect is real, as we know from many institutions. . . . The stacks must be restricted to those who can be held accountable for the well-being of the collections."

Criticizing the LC policy were President Rose Apter of AFSCME Local 2910; Dennis Roth, president of the Congressional Research Employees Association; Grace Palladino of the University of Maryland history department; Marti Morris, an independent researcher; and Columbia University historian Eric Foner (who had supported LC on the Marshall papers issue). All variously described the closed-stack policy as unfair, inefficient or inconvenient. Ms. Apter, like Dr. Stam, urged more work on inventory control. Mr. Roth noted unpleasant surprises such as closed restrooms on Saturdays and Sundays. Disparaging LC employees, Dr. Palladino said it was taking her longer to do her work. Dr. Foner said LC showed a bad "attitude" toward responsible scholars, who should have special stack access.

LC's Ms. Kresh responded: "The only true access to any material is to catalog it, to preserve it and to know where it is. That access can be passed down through generations. The only access being denied now is to those materials that have already been destroyed or stolen. We cannot allow our cultural heritage to vanish."

The Library's "vast holdings belong to the nation. To be certain they will be available for future generations of citizens and scholars, we must protect them today. Most people do not realize that between 70 and 80 percent of the items in our collections have always been in closed stacks."

—James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress

Following are excerpts from the testimony of some of the witnesses:

☐ **Librarian of Congress James H. Billington** . . . We recently celebrated the acquisition of the Library's 100 millionth item (see LC *Information Bulletin*, May 17), one of a collection of watercolor paintings, drawings, and prints by the 19th century artist John Rubens Smith. It joined other items including 4 million maps, 40,000,000 manuscripts and 12,000,000 musical items. This is just the beginning of a long list. There are also about 20 million bound volumes—books and serials—that constitute one-fifth of the total collections. . . .

These vast holdings belong to the nation. To be certain they will be available for future generations of citizens and scholars, we must protect them today.

The collections are served to readers through the Library's 22 reading rooms and are retrieved from hundreds of miles of closed stacks.

Most people do not realize that between 70 and 80 percent of the items in our collections have always been in closed stacks which have never been available to the public or to Library staff who do not work in that particular area. Stack passes have never been available, for example, in such collections as maps, manuscripts, motion pictures, music, sound recordings, and other special collections.

For decades, the general book collections were treated differently from the special collections. We made exceptions to our closed stack policy when we found that the interests of the Library and the researcher were best served by issuance of a stack pass that gave access to the book collections. Library staff were also given unlimited access to the book stacks until last year.

However, the Library of Congress was more vulnerable than anyone was willing to admit. Society had changed. We gradually became aware of increased threats to collections security, even as other American institutions faced increased threats to people and property. In 1978, we began an inventory of the general book collections—20 million books. By the late 1980s, management found a cumulative total of about 300,000 volumes that could not be accounted for. It became increasingly clear that permitting direct access had inflicted a terrible hidden cost.

Six years ago, we began planning for electronic controls on more than 110 doors to secure the stacks; the work, now almost complete, was planned to coincide with the renovation and restoration of the Jefferson Building. In 1988, our Man-

agement and Planning Committee, composed of Library staff and managers, proposed a book detection system that we began to install in 1991. . . . In June 1991 we began a Library-wide reader registration program. Readers are asked to present photo identification. The process takes about three minutes and is widely accepted.

Closing the stacks was not a popular idea, but we were moving toward curtailing access to the public in 1991–92 when a number of incidents occurred that made it imperative that the stacks be closed immediately.

First, between May 1991 and March 1992, four people were caught and arrested at the Library for theft of our materials. The persons arrested seemed to be quite respectable researchers before they were caught: indeed, one was a government attorney; another, a physician in the suburbs.

We began to examine our illustrated books. So far we have found that approximately 500 titles are *mutilated,* many of them multivolume sets. We believe that sophisticated thieves targeted our collections of illustrated books because of their value in an increasingly lucrative market. Many of these volumes cannot be salvaged. It is even harder to accept the fact that most of them probably can never be replaced.

Finally, in March 1992, I was told that valuable illustrated books in our general collections in the stacks were found with paper clips attached to key illustrations—paper clips that had not been there a week earlier. It seemed evident that thieves, hearing rumors that we were about to close off direct access, were targeting illustrations for rapid extraction. It was time to act, even if our planning was not yet complete. I decided to close off the stacks to the public.

Moreover, beginning May 1, 1992, Library staff were required to obtain a special pass when they needed access to the stacks for job-related reasons. [Roughly 160 deck attendants and other Library employees "service" the collections; 382 others get "transit-only" passes to go to and from worksites via the stacks; 423 others in reference, cataloging, etc. have daily passes to "use" the collections.]

Others were asked to use the Library's FETCH (automatic retrieval) system to obtain materials. Those with a stack pass were required to display the pass at all times so that staff working in the stacks and Library police patrolling the stacks could see at once who was authorized to be there.

"At the risk of alienating many of my friends in the historical community as well as some fellow librarians, I particularly wish to give the strongest possible endorsement to the Library's closed-stack policy as an aid to access rather than an impediment to use, as some historians have charged."

—David H. Stam, Librarian

Although the sudden stack closing caused considerable dismay, we kept our staff informed and made every effort to reach scholars and researchers. Staff also met with individual researchers to discuss their needs and possible special assistance.

Even those researchers who complained about the loss of stack access also applauded the Library's new security consciousness. We have accommodated the special needs of many researchers through enhanced service by our reference and Collections Management Division staff, who provide the materials these researchers need.

The most common—and most serious—complaint of the serious researcher stems from being told that the book he seeks is "not on shelf." It was a complaint often directed at the Library of Congress. Now, our not-on-shelf rate has dropped about 4 percent, to below 20 percent, and the improved physical condition and good order of the collections have reduced the need for upkeep labor. . . .

Closing the stacks was only one necessary security measure. Last year I convened a new Library-wide task force and asked its members to come up with a broad security plan.

This task force, with the assistance of professional security consultants, developed a comprehensive plan incorporating a variety of measures which, taken together, will assure adequate security for the collections. The plan is revised as we adjust to changing budgetary pressures and other factors. I will give you a few highlights:

☐ We have caged stack areas that hold valuable materials at greater risk of theft or mutilation;

☐ We did a survey of our reading rooms and have begun to reconfigure them to improve surveillance by our staff;

☐ We intensified inspections of briefcases, bags and purses at building entrances and exits;

☐ We ordered lockers for readers' personal belongings so they can be left outside reading rooms;

☐ We installed security cameras, completely eliminating the loss of current periodicals in one reading room.

Our security efforts cost money—money taken from other Library programs. While we believe that the House-passed appropriations bill for fiscal year 1994 would fund [at $1.4 million] critical aspects of our security plan, [prospective] reductions of 14 percent overall and 4 percent in personnel would significantly alter our plans. These issues are currently being studied.

All our efforts are complicated by the Library's size, its configuration,

the various tasks of its 5,000 employees, the uncertainty of funding and the range of activities that go on at the Library. No other library is even close in size to the Library of Congress. We encourage people to use local resources such as public libraries and college libraries, but we do not turn away adults once they are here. They come from all over America and, indeed, from all over the world.

We also are aware that often we are the best or only source of information on many subjects. The Library of Congress is a public institution that represents the best of our country's democratic ideals, and as the Congress's library it has become the people's library as well. We do not yet foresee the day when we will require academic credentials or letters of reference to use the collections, as other national libraries do. Instead, we are becoming better guardians to ensure that the collections remain intact for *all* our users.

Once we have put in place and tested all the security measures we envisage, we will invite the nation's top library security specialists to assess our system. Only when that system is duly certified as effective can we begin to think about special access and similar matters.

When will that be? Our specialists estimate no sooner than three years from now.

We will continue to try to strike the delicate balance between security and accessibility. Most users recognize, as we do, the overriding importance to society of safeguarding the collections. With your support—which has always been so crucial to our success in any endeavor—we will continue to improve our security and also our methods of making the collections available with the least amount of risk. We ask only for a little patience from some of our traditional users who are giving excessive weight in public statements to their own short-term inconvenience while they give inadequate attention to their own longterm interests and those of all users of the Library. We must consider the long term. Not to do so would be a betrayal of the Congress which has supported this Library for almost 200 years and a grave lapse in our duty to future generations.

☐ **David H. Stam, University Librarian, Syracuse University.** I currently serve on the boards of the Association of Research Libraries and of the Research Libraries Group and until recently as a member of the Research Division of the American Historical Association. As a historian as well as a librarian, I have dedicated my work to the service of library users in diverse institutions ranging from the library of the *U.S.S. Galveston* to the New York Public Library.

"Current estimates suggest, for example, that as many as 50,000 illustrations have been razored from Library of Congress books and are circulating in the art market. During the 1980s, as prices rose dramatically in the art markets, thieves targeted the Library as a source of salable material."

—Diane Kresh,
LC Preservation
Resources Officer

But my special concern has been the support of scholarship in the humanities, and especially historical scholarship, through the collection, preservation, organization and dissemination of historical sources.

For that reason I feel it a privilege to testify today in support of the Library of Congress and its attempt to deal responsibly with the public use of its collections. At the risk of alienating many of my friends in the historical community as well as some fellow librarians, I particularly wish to give the strongest possible endorsement to the Library's closed-stack policy as an aid to access rather than an impediment to use, as some historians have charged.

The Library must maintain this stringent policy for at least four simple but interrelated reasons . . . (1) Assurance of access to its collections; (2) Reduction of theft and loss; (3) Protection and preservation of its resources; and (4) Stewardship of its responsibilities.

The late Lawrence W. Towner, my own mentor at the Newberry Library in Chicago, once published an essay on library security entitled "An End to Innocence." It has recently been reprinted in a selection of his works (University of Chicago, 1993) and makes sobering reading for librarians as well as historians (as Towner was) in placing the blame for library theft squarely if not exclusively on the librarians who . . . have too often neglected their responsibility. What he laments most is the loss of trust which had seemingly bound together libraries, their staffs, their users and their suppliers and supporters. . . .

The measures taken by the Library in March 1992, though precipitous and unpopular, were long overdue, and I support them fully.

Library theft is scarcely a new phenomenon. One need only think of the medieval chained libraries, designed to protect precious resources against theft by presumably knowledgeable users. Or one can visit the 18th century wire cages designed for readers in Dublin's Marsh's Library at Dean Jonathan Swift's Cathedral. These small cages accommodated one or two users who would be locked in while using library books. That method would have been useful with Thomas J. Wise, trusted president of the Bibliographical Society (London), but recognized since 1934 as a notorious thief of valuable materials from the British Museum Library and an unscrupulous forger.

Fifty years ago *The Bulletin of The*

New York Public Library published an essay by Lawrence S. Thompson called "Notes on Bibliokleptomania." The NYPL stack copy of that essay was neatly razored out of the bound volume. An intact copy found at Syracuse shows an entertaining but dismal account of the long history of book theft.

The dimension of library theft is unknown and probably unknowable; the patterns we see seem to indicate a fairly even balance between external thieves and insider thefts. . . . Some work for greed, others for the pleasure of ownership. Inside jobs . . . have occurred in the last 15 years at a variety of university libraries, including Georgia, Oregon, Pennsylvania and my own institution. Independent libraries . . . are not immune from this threat. Recent examples can be cited at the Chester Beatty Library in Dublin and the Rosenbach Foundation in Philadelphia.

External threats are equally serious. Several concerning the Library of Congress have been widely publicized in the local and national press. Others, even when known, get little attention. One thief, posing as a scholar of contemporary American literature, a few years ago managed to "acquire" manuscript letters by major American authors from libraries at Columbia, Yale, Princeton, Syracuse and other repositories, despite good but obviously insufficient security measures against a determined thief. Many other examples could be cited. . . .

The cases described above are exclusively from closed-stack collections. . . . Almost eighty percent of the Library of Congress collections are already protected in that fashion with a relative degree of success. Last summer, I was able to spend over a week working with some institutional archives in the Manuscript Division . . . and was impressed by the quality and care of supervision of the materials used there. . . .

The current debate deals with the closing of access for selected members of the public to the general collections, some 10 million volumes in the Jefferson Building. A related issue is the withdrawal of stack privileges for LC staff for nonwork-related purposes. . . .

At considerable cost in staff, security measures, book replacement (if possible) and the chaos and disorder of misplaced and missing materials, many librarians still maintain that [open stack] tradition in both public and academic libraries as part of our mission. [This] is not and should not be the mission of a national library . . . and to my knowledge there are no national libraries that offer such privileges, not in Britain, not in France, not in Argentina, not in Indonesia. Alas, only in Sarajevo, whose library has now been completely destroyed.

"As frequent users of the Library of Congress, for whom access to the Library's incomparable collections is indispensable to our scholarly work, we historians are strongly opposed to the Library's new policy of closing its stacks to all researchers. We also oppose the Library's decision to close the Manuscript Division on Saturdays."

—Eric Foner,
History Professor

The reason is fairly simple. As the library of record for a given country, the national library is expected to have available on site the materials which it claims to hold. An American scholar traveling to Europe can go with a reasonable expectation that the materials he or she knows to be there, as listed in national or institutional catalogs and data bases, will in fact be there. . . .

The same cannot now be said of the European scholar visiting the general collections of the Library of Congress, where the "not-on-shelf" performance is legendary. . . .

The best assurance of continued [LC] improvement will be maintenance of the new [closed-stack] policy, new efforts at inventory control and shelf-reading and an improved system to determine the exact location of any given item at any time. . . .

There are considerable . . . costs in maintaining open-stack collections that Congress . . . should not ask LC to bear. . . . Arthur Curley, director of the Boston Public Library and newly elected president of the American Library Association, reports that his institution's research library devotes roughly three times as much staff to maintaining a semblance of order in an open-access collection of under 1 million volumes as it does more successfully for a closed-stack research collection of over 5 million volumes.

Book loss, security, preservation and repair costs, in addition to staffing, are all much higher in the open-stack collections, while the ability to find a given title is reduced. The Library of Congress is not the local public library or even a university library and should not be treated as if it were.

Some might say that this comparison is a false one, that the stacks of LC should remain closed, but exceptions made for the scholar needing the opportunity for serendipitous discovery, in effect a fishing license. What kind of democratic principle could justify such an approach? Who should decide? On what basis? Why her and not him? What qualifications will be compelling? To their regret, several research libraries have found that extensive educational credentials are no guarantee of honesty. There is little doubt that most thievery in research libraries has been perpetrated by privileged and knowledgeable readers. . . .

Some of the objections to the

Library's new and stringent stack access policy have come from within the Library's staff of nearly 5,000. One can easily understand the irritation of the many people who have helped organize these collections to then be told they are no longer trusted to fetch them on their own. Nonetheless, the threat of inside pilferage and neglect is real, as we know from many institutions. The Library does not cast aspersions on the integrity of any single individual when it recognizes, as it has been forced to do, that *collectively,* the users of its stacks (staff and public alike) have forfeited the privileges of stack access that they have enjoyed for a long time. The evidence of loss and mutilation is incontrovertible. . . .

The stacks must be restricted to those who can be held accountable for the well-being of the collections. The result will not be perfect but a great improvement over what we have seen in the past. . . .

There is no deprivation of access so great as theft or destruction. To me, both as librarian and historian, it is sad to see that the Library of Congress is now attacked for living up to its responsibilities in ways that have been neglected for some time.

Let me conclude with a few suggestions: . . .

(1) Maintain and strengthen the closed stack policy. Extend it to include congressional staff and all but those responsible and accountable for the service and protection of the collections.

(2) Eliminate or drastically curtail patron photocopying. The damage to collections from xerography is also an access issue, and the staff should be the ones to determine whether material can be copied without damage, and then to perform the copying in the least harmful way. The Library will have to develop a relatively quick service to perform the work, probably at greater cost. . . .

(3) Raise the priority of inventory control and shelf-reading, if necessary diverting some of the backlog cataloging staff to a major assessment of what is missing from the collections. Modify catalog records to indicate what is missing.

(4) Publish regular lists of books known to be missing. . . . It is important that all libraries be aware of the fashions in theft. . . .

(5) Devote greater attention to development of a locator file system to track where every item is at any given time. This will be a monumental job but will be absolutely essential to the successful reduction of the not-on-shelf (NOS) rate and therefore to comprehensive access to the collections. . . .

At a reunion of the four living Librarians of Congress about a decade ago, Archibald MacLeish noted that few people realize how complex libraries like the Library of Congress are, "far more complex than the Pentagon," where internal controls are recognized by all as utterly essential. Complexity breeds problems. The current security plan of the Library of Congress addresses some of those problems, and I urge that you continue to support the Library, despite the criticisms, as it attempts to meet its enormous responsibilities. . . .

☐ **Diane Kresh, LC's Preservation Resources Officer.** . . . I am here today to tell you why I strongly support the Librarian's actions to enhance collection security at the Library of Congress.

For the past 19 years, I have been employed by the Library of Congress. During those 19 years, I have worked as a deck attendant, cataloging technician, copyright examiner, reference librarian (where I issued stack passes), manager of the general collections and, now, as a preservation administrator.

In March 1992, prompted by reports of growing losses, the Librarian took forceful action to close the stacks, to make security a top priority and to develop and implement an overall security plan.

One year later, we are developing a security system and slowly counting our past losses. Let me discuss the losses. Current estimates suggest, for example, that as many as 50,000 illustrations have been razored from Library of Congress books and are circulating in the art market.

During the 1980s, as prices rose dramatically in the art markets, thieves targeted the Library as a source of salable material. For example:

☐ Large boat chromolithographs of the 1880s sold for about $1,000 each at a New York auction house in 1991. More than 50 such prints were stolen from the Library's copies of *American Yachts.*

☐ Etched 19th century views of Rome by Luigi Rossini sell for as much as $500 each at print fairs and auctions. No less than 342 have been taken from the Library's shelves.

Ironically, in the 1980s, the Library's on-line catalog made searching for illustrated books quicker and easier. By using the new automated system, thieves could prepare lists of books with "original woodcuts" or "original etchings" in the title. Further, automated searches for famous illustrators, such as Maxfield Parrish, enabled thieves to target and plunder the Library's holdings. Targeted books could then be systematically mutilated in secluded sections of reading rooms or in isolated collections areas.

While we cannot pinpoint for certain the exact date when these illustrations were removed from the Library, we know from both an inventory of the fine art book collection and from binding records that the art volumes were intact until about 1985.

Thieves have attacked illustrated books in every subject area, in some cases systematically looting ranges of shelves and hiding paper scrips, book boards and other evidence inside other volumes to avoid detection. Any work in color, for example, hand-colored plates, is

particularly vulnerable to theft. Some areas of the book collections have been damaged more than others:

☐ **Natural History Books.** With magnificently illustrated volumes on flowers, birds and butterflies, this subject area has suffered the greatest losses to mutilation. Nearly 10,000 illustrations have been razored from 40 titles—some of them multivolume works—and their replacement value is estimated at nearly $400,000.

☐ **Illustrated Travel Accounts and Expedition Reports.** Visual documentation of entire regions has been compromised by mutilation. Nearly all 19th century views in color of Turkey, Sri Lanka and Brazil have disappeared from the Library's rich holdings in those countries, leaving only the damaged texts and less desirable images. Losses in books on Egypt have not yet been tallied, but the most important works—Napoleon's campaign reports, for example have all been selectively razored.

☐ **Architectural Views.** The built environment, from Egypt and Pompeii to Frank Lloyd Wright, has also tempted thieves. Decorating magazines review the vast market for the stolen plates. Mutilation of these books is sophisticated and selective. Views and elevations are gone, while the less salable plans remain. Some 39 architecture volumes examined to date have lost nearly 1,500 plates, or nearly half the plates originally published. Unfortunately, the list goes on.

Repair and recovery of damaged or lost books are costly if not impossible. To replace a single mutilated volume on orchids last year cost the Library nearly $12,000. Other books are so rare that no copies have appeared at auctions in the last 20 years. In many cases, the Library copy was the only one in North America.

Assessment of losses at the Library is in itself a staggering task. In the late 1980s some 300,000 from the Library's general collections were declared missing without a trace. Many unidentifiable bindings have been found, with call numbers and titles obliterated, the contents gone. Evidence of some 500 mutilated titles has been discovered so far. The estimated replacement value for those 500 titles totals roughly $2 million. . . .

Some readers and staff have viewed heightened security awareness as a denial of access. They are shortsighted. The only true access to any material exists when librarians catalog it, preserve it and know where it is. That access can be passed down generations. The only access being denied now is to those materials that have already been destroyed or stolen. We cannot allow our cultural heritage to vanish.

☐ **Eric Foner, DeWitt Clinton Professor of History, Columbia University, and President, Organization of American Historians.** . . . I come before you today on behalf of the Organization of American Historians, which I serve as President, and the American Historical Association. These organizations have a combined membership of some 25,000 scholars, teachers, and students of history.

As frequent users of the Library of Congress, for whom access to the Library's incomparable collections is indispensable to our scholarly work, we historians are strongly opposed to the Library's new policy of closing its stacks to all researchers. We also oppose the Library's decision to close the Manuscript Division on Saturdays.

Over and above these specific complaints, moreover, we are disturbed by the more general problem of a suspicious and unfriendly attitude toward researchers that the Library seems to be cultivating and the intransigence of the Librarian of Congress when confronted with widespread criticism of his new policies.

Historians, of course, are deeply concerned about reports of the theft and mutilation of books in the Library of Congress, and strongly support the installation of reasonable procedures to safeguard the collections. But the abrupt closing of the stacks has severely impeded the ability of our members to pursue their research and make full use of the Library's holdings. Stack closing has resulted in sharply increased demand on the staff assisting readers, limits on the number of items researchers can request, long delays in receiving materials, and a significant increase in the number of items reported lost or misplaced.

Previously, when materials were not located, the Library staff would encourage researchers to go into the stacks themselves and seek out the books themselves, since more often than not they had simply been misshelved. This is no longer possible.

ATTENTION

The *Information Bulletin* will, as in the past, not publish during August. Subscribers will next receive issues for July 12 and July 26; publication will resume with the Sept. 6 issue.

Court Papers *(Cont. from p. 269)*

ful) repository of most of the Supreme Court's history. As a historian and as the Librarian of Congress, I think it important, of course, to continue to have Supreme Court Justices, under any changed policy concerning their papers, freely to choose the depository for these materials.

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INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSN 0041-7904

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